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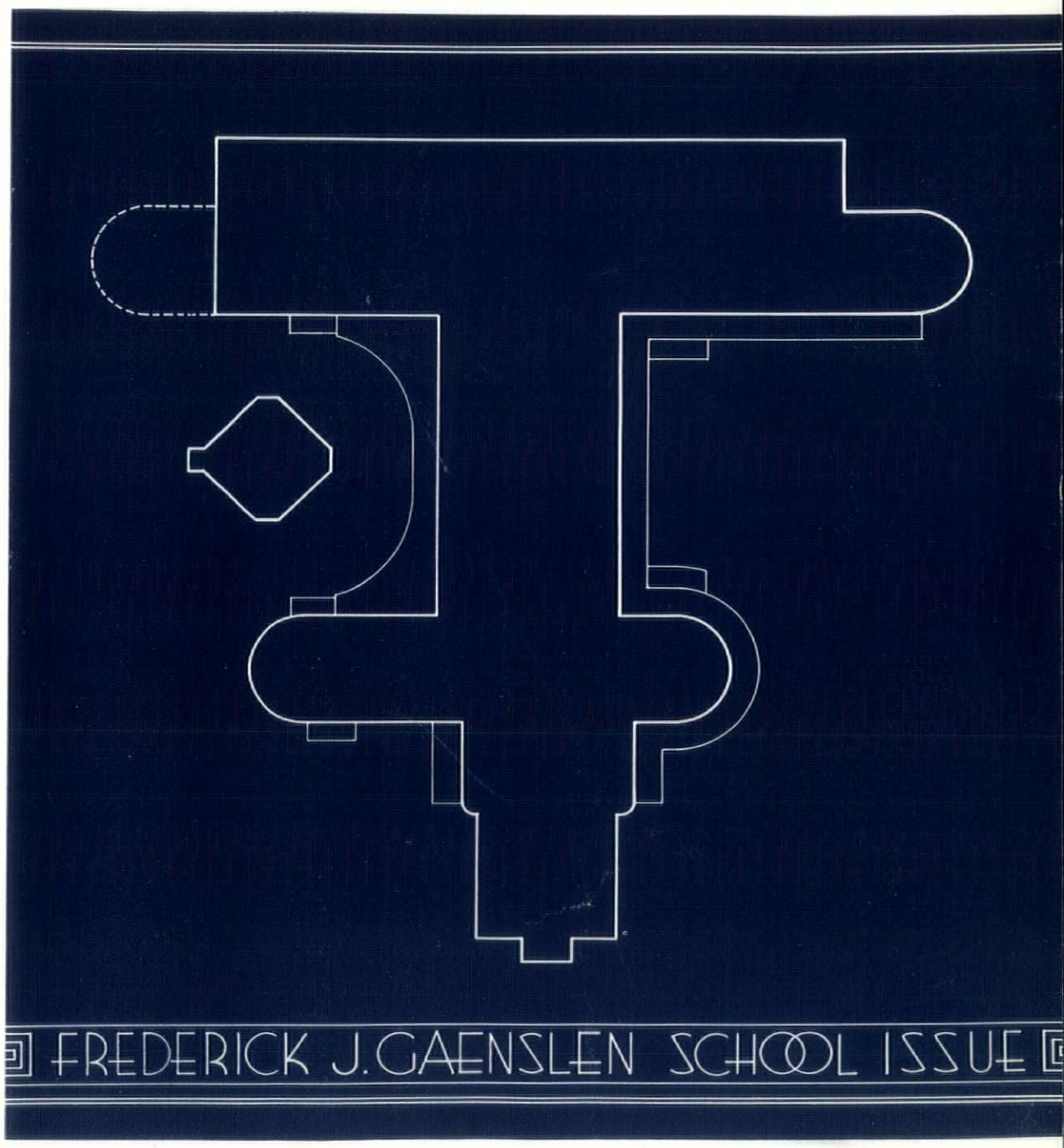
# THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

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**THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT**

Official Publication

The State Association of Wisconsin Architects

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Wisconsin Chapter, The American Institute of Architects

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Producers' Council Club of Wisconsin

LEIGH HUNT, *Editor*
152 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee

EDWIN R. CRAMER, *Publisher*
724 E. Mason St., Milwaukee

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Board

A meeting of the Executive Board of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects was held at the Plankinton Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on January 6, 1940.

The meeting was called to order by President William Mickelsen at 10:30 A.M.

The following members were present: Messrs. Walter Memmler, Wallace Brown, Leigh Hunt, Gregory Lefebvre, Edward Wettengel, William Mickelsen, William Schneider, Gerritt DeGelleke, and A. L. Seidenschwartz.

Messrs. Emiel Klingler, Noel Ross Safford, C. Madsen, and B. H. Knobla were represented by proxy.

Mr. Carl Eschweiler, Chairman of the Educational Committee and Mr. Peter Brust, Chairman of the Publicity Committee were present to discuss committee matters.

Minutes of the meeting held on November 25, 1939, were approved as published.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Practice Committee*:

Mr. Leigh Hunt, chairman, reported that he together with Mr. Alex Bauer, President of the Wisconsin A.I.A. Chapter and Mr. Alex Eschweiler, Jr., had a meeting with the Building Committee of Outagamie County in regard to the matter of selecting an architect for the new court house. Mr. Hunt reported that they outlined to the committee the method of procedure in connection with an approved architectural competition, giving details and costs, and also the method of procedure in direct selection of an architect. Mr. Hunt further reported that the committee had decided to select an architect direct rather than go to the expense of a competition.

A letter was received from the C. R. Meyer & Sons Co. of Oshkosh acknowledging the Secretary's letter relative to not receiving plan deposit from the G. L. Van Fleet Co. The C. R. Meyer & Sons Co. report that since our letter of December 7, to said company, no reply had been received and they were wondering what procedure they should follow in order to obtain the return of their deposit. As there is nothing further that our Association can do, it was recommended that the Secretary notify the C. R. Meyer & Sons Co. accordingly.

Messrs. Memmler and Seidenschwartz reported on the question of the Shorewood Herald in regard to the misrepresentation in the solicitation of advertising.

Mr. Noel Ross Safford submitted correspondence with the T. C. Esser Company with reference to the Ford Drug Company at Oconto, Wisconsin. All correspondence was turned over to Mr. Leigh Hunt for further study and investigation.

*Publicity Committee*:

Mr. Brust, chairman of the committee, who was present at the Board meeting gave a detailed report of circulation of newspapers outside of Milwaukee, the cost, the number of members in each district in each city, and the number of members who had contributed to the advertising campaign. It was disclosed that in most cases that the percentage of cost per 1,000 circulation of papers in all districts was considerably more in up-State papers than in Milwaukee. After considerable discussion it was moved and seconded that the report be referred back to the committee until after the results of the last statement to the members on the advertising assessment is received. Motion was adopted.

*Educational Committee*:

Mr. Carl Eschweiler, chairman, reported on the activities of

the Atelier in the Herbst & Kuenzli Building, with Dr. E. Escher in charge. Mr. Eschweiler reported that Dr. Escher, who is well qualified to operate the Atelier, and is giving his service free. He stated that at present the number of students availing themselves of this service was too small. It was suggested that a charge of fifteen dollars a year be made for tuition. It was also suggested that a greater interest be created or stimulated. It was moved by Mr. DeGelleke and seconded by Mr. Hunt that a letter be drafted and sent to all members of the State Association, calling their attention to the Atelier. Motion was adopted.

Mr. Gregory Lefebvre, chairman of last year's Small House Competition Committee, asked that the decision of the Executive Board be reconsidered in connection with last year's competition. Mr. Lefebvre stated that in his opinion the draftsman who submitted drawings in the competition did so in good faith, and that the architect who was to have sponsored him neglected to send in the necessary information to the committee. It was moved by Mr. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Lefebvre that the sponsor send in a proper letter of information in connection with this draftsman and that when it is received the prize be awarded to the winner. Motion was adopted.

*Engineers' Conference*:

Mr. Peter Brust who represented the State Association at the meeting of the Engineers' Conference Committee reported that one afternoon had been set aside for the architects and that several subjects were provided for the architects. The architects are to provide one speaker.

*Legislative Committee*:

Mr. B. H. Knobla, chairman, who was not present at the meeting, sent in the following report in connection with the lien law. He stated that he spent Saturday afternoon of December 30th, gathering first hand information on the background and operation of the lien law from Mr. James Drought, Attorney and General Counsel for the retail Lumberman's Association, and that he also had several conferences with Mr. Frank Rentz, Assistant to the Attorney General. Mr. Knobla decided that rather than writing to each state for a copy of their lien laws he would go to the law library, look up the particular sections by number, and get the information. By doing so the request will be referred to the proper department.

*Housing*:

Mr. DeGelleke, chairman. No report.

*Small Houses*:

Mr. Edmund Schrang, chairman. No report. However, Mr. Schrang stated that his committee would hold a meeting soon and have a report to be presented at a future meeting.

*Membership Committee*:

Mr. Wallace Brown, chairman. Mr. Brown reported that he contacted the secretaries of the several districts asking for their support in the collection of dues and enlarging our membership.

In connection with membership, Mr. Schrang suggested that one large gathering should be held annually which would create good fellowship among the architects and at the same time give us needed publicity.

*Construction Industries Committee*:

Mr. Memmler, the State Association representative, reported that Mr. Eschweiler was interested in bringing the Wisconsin Building Congress back to life. He stated that Mr. Gebhardt, vice-president of the Building Congress would call a meeting in the next two weeks. (Since that time the State Association has been notified that the meeting would be held on January 18). It was suggested that Mr. DeGelleke represent the State Association at the preliminary meetings.

*New Business*:

Mr. DeGelleke, member of the Wisconsin Registration Board of Architects, reported that they had a meeting with the State Budget Committee in regard to the budget of the Board of Examiners for the coming year. After the Budget Committee heard the report of the Examining Board, they informed the board that the budget would not be reduced.

Mr. Walter Memmler reported that on January 23 Mr. James Law, President of the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, would speak before the Milwaukee Advisory Council at the City Club, the subject being "Problems of City Government and State Legislation." Fourteen tickets were sent to the Seventh District president of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, same was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR L. SEIDENSCHWARTZ,
*Secretary*

**Wisconsin Chapter A.I.A. Monthly Meeting will be held at the City Club, 12:15 P.M., Wednesday, February 28, 1940.**

## Wisconsin Chapter A.I.A. January Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter was called to order by President Alexander H. Bauer at 1 p.m. January 31.

Two guests were present, Walter Wyrick of the Journal and William Keats of the Portland Cement association. The president introduced the newest member of the Chapter, Mr. Arthur L. Seidenschwartz, who was given a warm welcome.

The chair introduced Mr. Leon Gurda, building inspector of Milwaukee. Mr. Gurda is a member of The Institute and of the Wisconsin Chapter.

The subject of his talk was "A Sketch History of the Office of the Building Inspector." He told many facts which were of interest to our profession. Below is a brief outline:

### 50TH ANNIVERSAY
### HISTORY OF THE INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

*City of Milwaukee Incorporated January 31, 1846*

The General Ordinances of 1875 regulating the Fire Department, also embodied vague building regulations, which was prior to the creation of the office of the Inspector of Buildings. The building regulations were confined to manufacturing plants located in fire areas only and enforced by the Chief of the Fire Department,

Mayor, Chief of Police, Patrolmen and Aldermen. These powers were a part of Chapter 8 of the Laws of Wisconsin, which regulated Fire Department and Fire Alarm Telegraph.

Authority was sought from the State Legislature in 1886, for the City of Milwaukee to appoint one elevator inspector.

On April 20, 1887, under Section 1 of Chapter 459, Laws of Wisconsin, an act to amend the Charter of the City of Milwaukee to create the office of the Inspector of Buildings was passed. The act further provided that the Mayor of the City of Milwaukee at the time of the first meeting of the Common Council in the month of May, shall every four years, commencing with the year 1887, appoint an Inspector of Buildings, who shall reside in the City of Milwaukee. The Inspector of Buildings so appointed shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars payable in monthly installments out of the City Treasury. In case of failure or neglect of the City of Milwaukee or its Common Council thereof to provide said Inspector of Buildings with a suitable office, then and in such case he shall receive the sum of three hundred dollars per annum to be paid to him monthly, so long as said Common Council shall fail or neglect to provide him with such office.

On May 9, 1887, communication was forwarded to the Common Council by the Mayor's Office regretting inability to appoint an Inspector of Buildings, due to Mayor Emil Wallber having had a severe accident.

On May 23, 1887, Mayor Emil Wallber submitted the name of Arthur Bate to the Common Council. The appoint was confirmed under suspension of rules. Arthur Bate became the first Inspector of Buildings whose term of four (4) years commenced on June 1, 1887.

The duties of the Inspector of Buildings were to inspect all buildings within the City of Milwaukee and especially those now being built or repaired and such as may hereafter be built or repaired, and to ascertain by or without the aid of a jury, whether said buildings have been built or repaired or are being built or repaired as required by law and the ordinances of the City of Milwaukee. The Building Code regulated the construction of buildings in fire areas only. Owners who wanted to construct a building had to apply in writing to the Mayor and Chief of the Fire Department for a permit to construct a building within the Fire Limits. No detailed structural or safety regulations were contained in the Code. Mr. Bate's duties were limited to inspection of buildings used for manufacturing purposes.

On June 1, 1887, Arthur Bate, Inspector of Buildings, sent a communication to the Common Council requesting its honorable body to inform him if an office will be provided him or whether the sum of three hundred dollars per annum be paid him for the renting of such office. For a time office space was rented for the Inspector of Buildings at a charge of twenty-five dollars per month.

On December 19, 1887, a resolution was adopted requiring the Inspector of Buildings to present to the Common Council at the end of each and every month a report of his transactions.

Permits for the construction of buildings between June 1, 1887 and March 13, 1888 had still to be procured from the Mayor and Chief Engineer of the Fire

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Producers Council Club

The monthly business meeting of The Producers' Council Club of Wisconsin was held at Ratzsch's Restaurant Monday noon, February 5th, with the following members present:

H. M. Hilton, Aluminum Company of America
G. E. Ryan, Kohler Company
W. T. Dortch, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company
N. J. Klein, Kawneer Company
O. E. Ness, Libby, Owens, Ford Glass Company
R. D. Dietrich, Johns-Manville Sales Corporation
E. B. Kennedy, Crane Company
C. A. Olson, National Lead Company
W. J. Flueck, Armstrong Cork Company

The Meeting was called to order by President Hilton. A discussion was had on the regular joint meeting with the Wisconsin Architects on the evening of January 10th, sponsored by the Producers' Council. It was agreed by all members, who were able to attend, that Mr. Maynard C. Krueger, of the University of Chicago, gave a most interesting talk on "Making Labor Responsible." Because of the severe winter weather only thirty-two attended, and of this number seventeen were architects.

President Hilton again encouraged members to submit technical and non-commercial articles for publication in the Wisconsin Architect's magazine. The articles are to be submitted to Mr. Hilton, and will be published in the order in which they are received and accepted.

The next joint meeting with the Architects will be on the evening of February 15th, at which time the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company will have a nationally famous member of their firm speak. You will receive a notice giving complete details on this meeting within the next few days.

At the present time no arrangements have been made for the joint meeting on March 21st, but for the following meeting on April 16th, the Johns-Manville Company plan to sponsor a trip to their Waukegan plant. President Hilton was interested in getting the opinion of the members as to the best form of program for the final meeting of the season on May 16th. The consensus of opinion seemed to favor an informal dance.

President Hilton introduced the subject of a joint meeting at Madison with the Architects in that City sometime in the near future. All members were heartily in favor of a meeting of this sort. Mr. Klein suggested that at this first meeting it would be well to have an officer of the National Association of The Producers' Council speak on the functions of the Producers' Council. It was moved and seconded that the Educational Committee make plans for this meeting along the lines of Mr. Klein's suggestion. Members will be notified of further developments of this program.

Mr. W. T. Dortch kindly offered to give any of the members an up to date list of active Architects in the Eastern part of Wisconsin. Mr. G. E. Ryan was also good enough to offer to any of the members an up to date list of active house builders. Please get in touch with those gentlemen if you desire to take advantage of these offers. Respectfully submitted,

W. J. FLUECK,
*Secretary*

*Auditorium and Gymnasium*

## The Gaenslen School for the Physically Handicapped

ALEXANDER H. BAUER, ESCHWEILER AND ESCHWEILER
*Architects Associated*

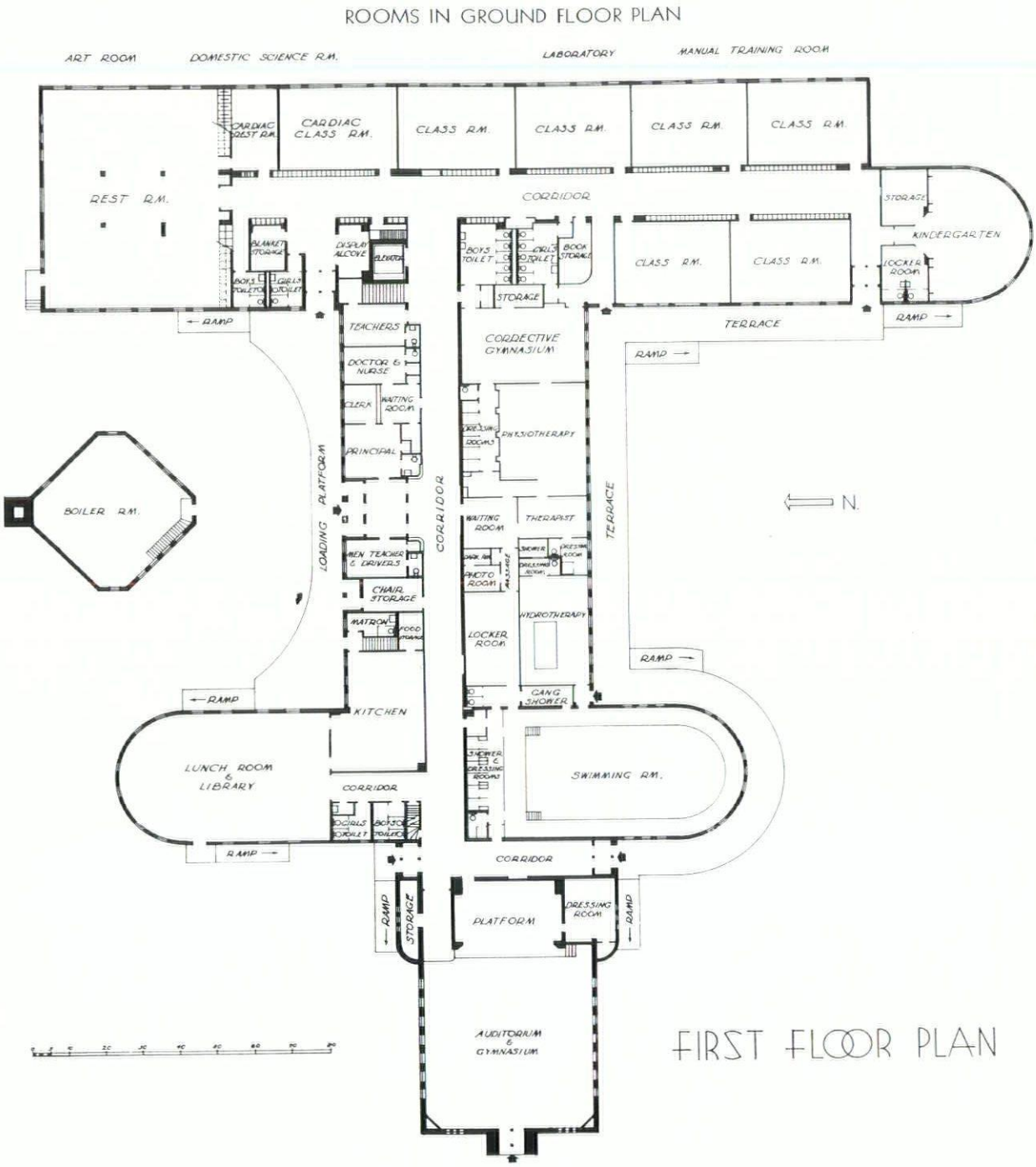
The Frederick J. Gaenslen School for the physically handicapped children of Milwaukee is completed and once more Milwaukee is proud of its achievements. These children, who for years have been quartered in makeshift wooden barracks, have been enjoying their new and long awaited building since the first of the year.

The new building occupies a beautiful six acre site on the west bank of the upper Milwaukee River, between East Auer Avenue and East Burleigh Street. The long classroom wing at the east end overhangs the edge of the bank, and looks out upon a wooded slope which stretches down to the water's edge, and across the river to the eastern bank. This wooded area has been designated as a bird sanctuary and makes a delightful park adjoining the school playground.

The entire area of the lot has been landscaped. There are large areas seeded to lawn and with shrubs and trees planted about for quiet recreation. Small garden plots for planting and tending by the children are ranged along the east terrace. The large paved playgrounds for organized sports are to the south of the building with a separate play area for the kindergarten children with suitable play apparatus for them. And then there are a maze of paths for exercising on tricycles, coaster wagons, bicycles, and other self-propelled toys, for those children who need special physical development along these lines.

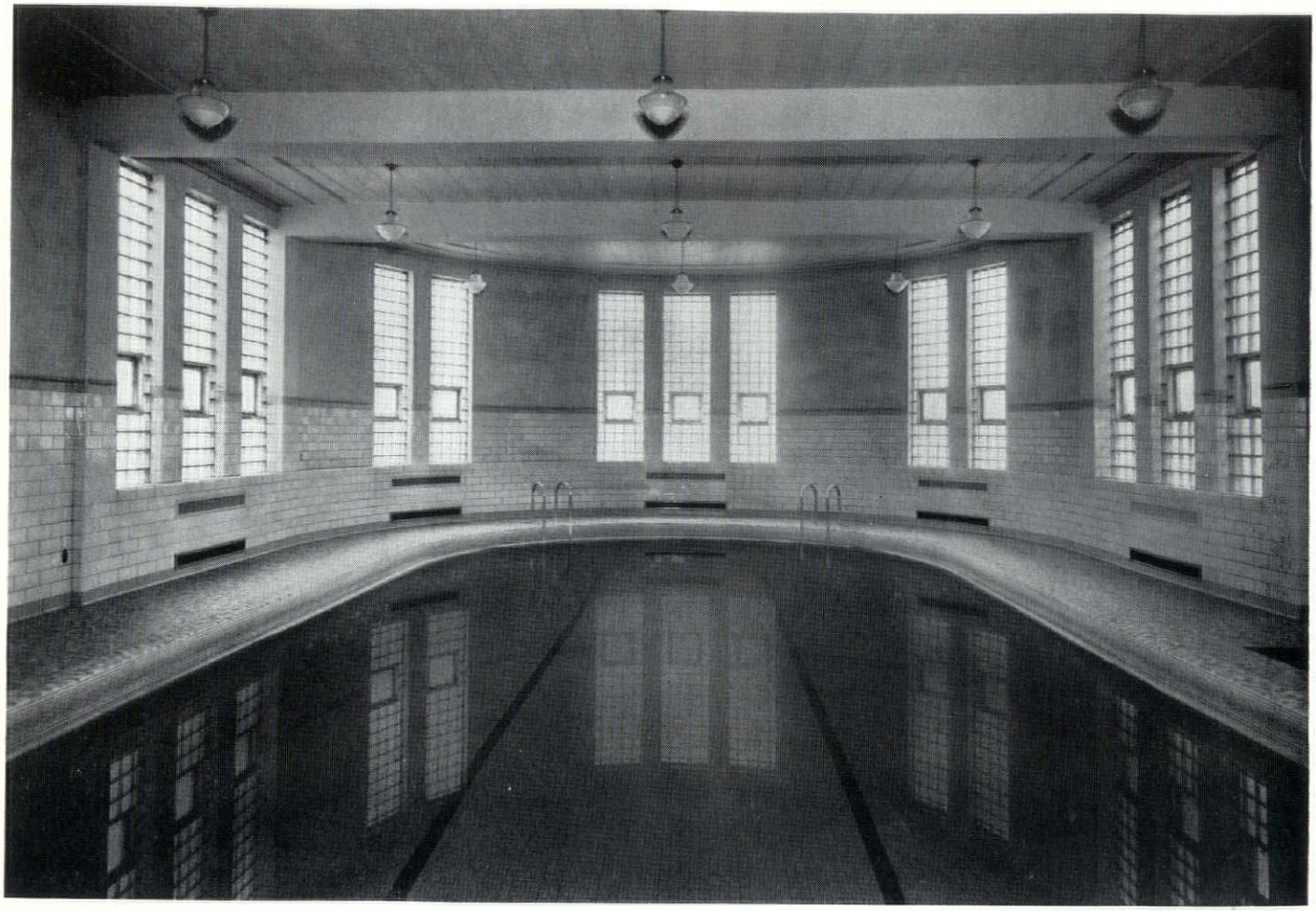
The children who come to this school include all ages from kindergarten through high school. There are cases of infantile paralysis, spastic paralysis, or other birth injuries, cardiac difficulties, and accidental injuries. These youngsters are brought to school each morning in large busses which discharge their loads at the long covered terrace along the north side of the building, and come back in the afternoon to return them to their homes. Anyone who anticipates a depressing sight, will be amazed at seeing these children arrive. They are probably the most cheerful group of pupils at any school in the city. Whether they have only a minor handicap or a more serious difficulty, and whether they can walk by themselves, get along on crutches, or are pushed along in a wheel chair by a classmate or teacher, one sees the same smiling hopefulness and happiness which the anticipation of a new day in school brings.

The building itself is unique. The plans of similar




**Frederick J. Gaenslen School**

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**



*Swimming Room*
FREDERICK J. GAENSLEN SCHOOL

type schools in the country were studied, but due to special conditions here in Milwaukee and varying techniques in the treatment of the children, there was comparatively little which could be adapted to this problem.

The building is essentially a school, but combines several other functions which are peculiarly interrelated. The use of the building may be divided into four general classifications: 1. Instructional; 2. Therapeutic; 3. Recreational; and 4. Administrative.

The instructional department is practically standard with the exception that most of the children have prescribed rest periods which are spent on folding cots in a large quiet rest room which accomodates over one hundred children at a time.

Each class has its home room on the main floor of the building. Shops, laboratories, and art room are in the ground floor. A large automatic elevator takes an entire class, of as many as forty children, up or down in one trip, to attend these special studies. Each pupil has his own locker in the corridor adjacent to his home room.

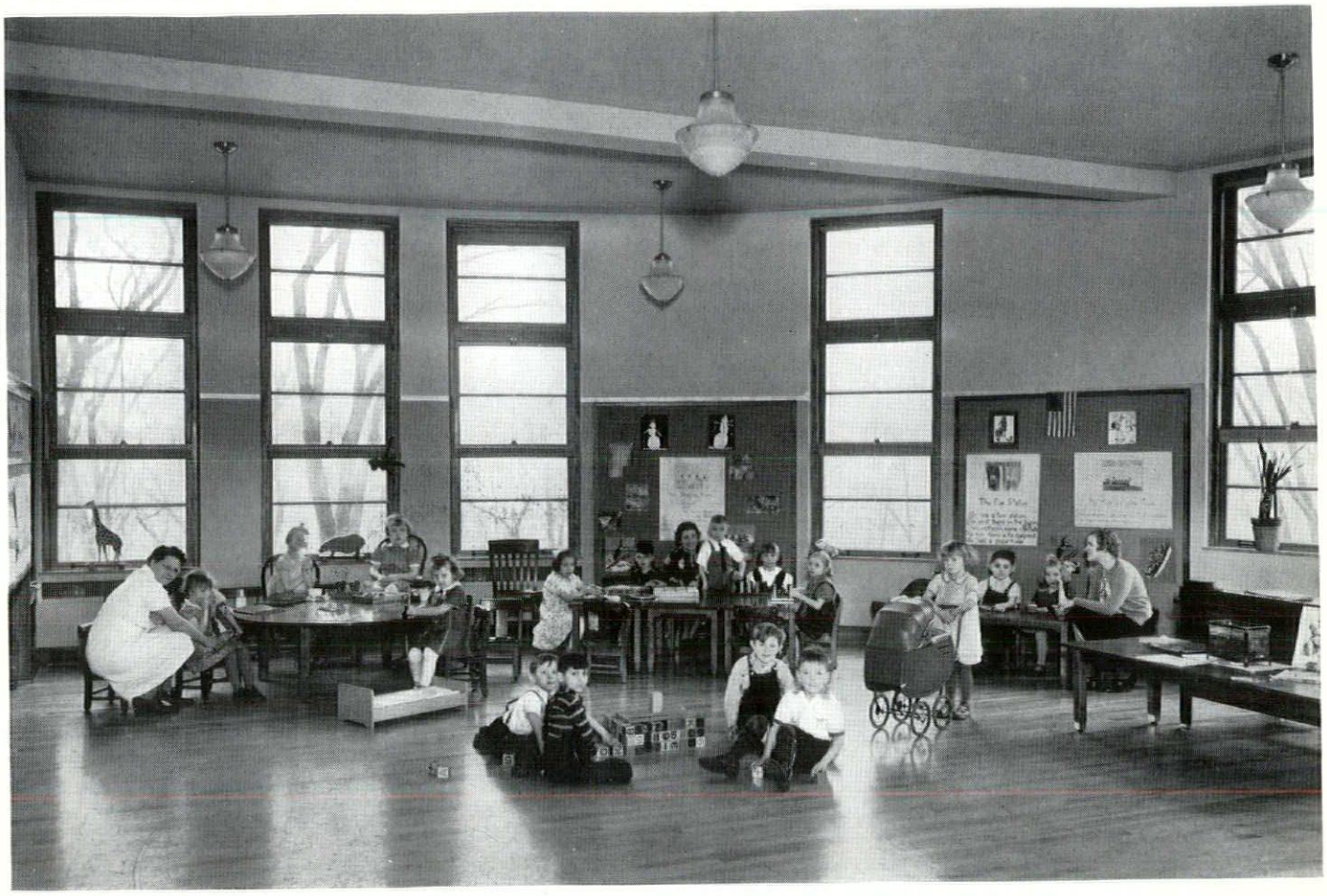
The therapeutic department occupies the center of the building. Here are facilities for the very last word in physiotherapy treatments. Lamps, diathermy, massage, and hydrotherapy treatments are available on doctor's prescription and a good size corrective gymnasium is equipped with all of the apparatus required for special exercises and training. This whole department is flooded with south sunlight and is centered about the therapists' office and waiting room.

On the south side of the center unit of the building is a broad terrace which can be used for sun bathing in connection with the physiotherapy department, and which is sheltered from the wind by the wings of the building.

Adjoining the therapy department and used for both curative and recreational activities is the large swimming pool with the attendant locker and dressing rooms and shower baths.

The recreational department comprises the combined auditorium and gymnasium with high ceiling and raised stage. This has a seating capacity of about four hundred and fifty. The combined lunch room and library with complete kitchen facilities occupies another wing at this end of the building, and is in use all day. It has seats for over one hundred thirty people and ultimate capacity for many more. Here each child receives a full meal at noon without charge, and during certain hours numbers of the children come here to read or play.

The administrative department with offices, doctors'



*Kindergarten*
FREDERICK J. GAENSLEN SCHOOL

examination room, teachers' rooms and so forth, is grouped around the north entrance in the center part of the building.

The building is a one-story structure in very simple straight-forward design built of a warm buff variegated brick with some Indiana limestone trim. Stairways have been dispensed with as much as possible, and all approaches to the entrances are by means of ramps. In planning the building much attention was given to the need for sunlight and air, and this feature is quite evident to anyone who tours its rooms.

The interior has been made as cheerful as possible in the choice of materials and colors. There is a great variety of color schemes in the various rooms, and almost each classroom has its own combination of colors. These are generally in the pastel shades with bright striping to divide the varying shades on the walls.

All corridors, toilet rooms, kitchen, swimming room, and physiotherapy department have been wainscotted with glazed structural tile in warm cream and buff colors with blue trim courses. The audtitorium wainscot is in varying shades of green tile and the ceilings generally are of acoustical plaster or other acoustical treatment to afford noise reduction.

The floors in all classrooms, corridors, auditorium, dining room, offices, etc., are of strip maple flooring finished with a non-slip lacquer. All toilet rooms, locker and dressing rooms, and the entire swimming room are floored with a non-slip tile.

At the present time the enrollment at the school totals approximately 220. There is a present capacity of 300. Although the building has only been occupied for a month, visitors have already taken advantage of the invitation to visit the school. Many inquiries have already been turned over to the Architects for information concerning the many unique innovations included in the design and plan of the new Gaenslen School for crippled children.

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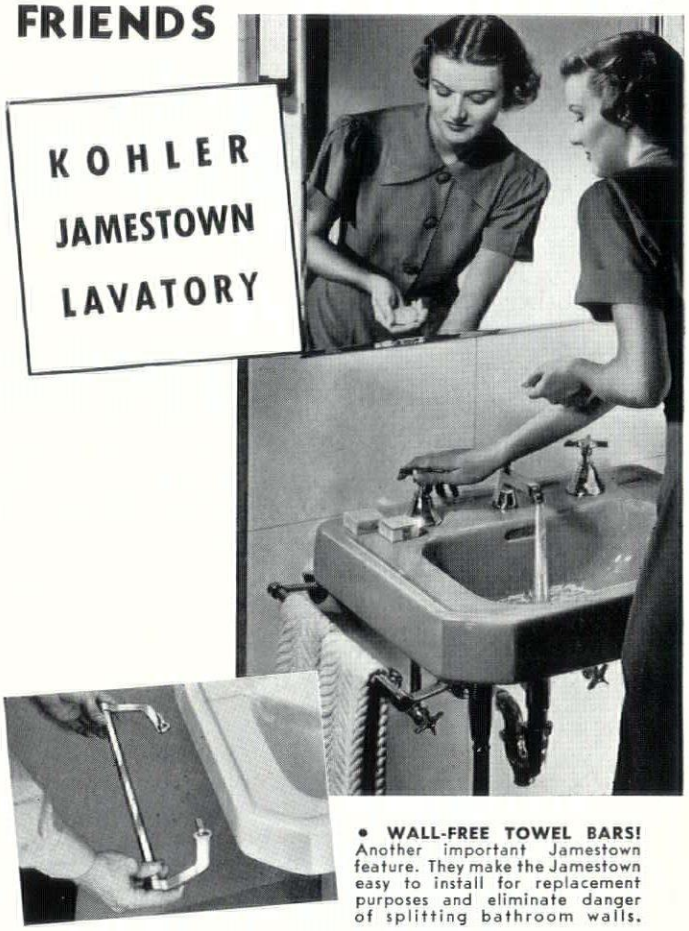


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## The Architect of Today

*By* JOHN N. RICHARDS, *A.I.A., Toledo, Ohio*

Being an architect of this era is very different than it was twenty or thirty years ago. Today's architect has forgotten his high and mighty attitude of the past age in order to keep up with the moving parade of events. The practice of architecture is no longer merely a profession. It has become a business and profession combined.

The modern architect knows the details of the building industry. He knows about costs, financing, engineering, design, real estate values and a multitude of other items. He realizes that he is a business man dealing with other business men. The latter are interested only in how well he and his organization can handle their problems.

Today's architect is a practical man and is able to advise any kind of a client. Beautiful drawings and artistic designs are not enough to make a man a good architect these days. Granted, they are important, but not as important as a sound knowledge of the building industry as a whole.

The modern architect studies every available angle of the problem to present his client with the best final solution of the problem possible. He may have his high hopes matured some, because of finances available for the project, but his client will receive dollar for dollar in value at the completion of the work.

A registered architect gives his experience gained from his college training and his practical knowledge. He is, in a sense, a psychologist, because he must analyze his clients needs. He studies the machinery involved in his clients building, whether it be a simple house or a large industrial plant.

He is well informed on how improvements are open to all new ideas. He studies these improvements and learns of their operation from demonstrations by factory representatives. He is therefore in a position to specify the best and most up-to-date equipment and materials possible.

He is civic-minded. He has a knowledge of city planning, group-planning and large scale planning. He is able to visualize solutions from a small house to a World's Fair group. He attacks a problem in a sound, modern, practical thinking manner.

While he has a good ground knowledge of past architecture, he thinks of his building, in its final conception as fitting into the pattern of the future. Whether he be building of brick, stone, or wood, he will endeavor to do something creditable to his profession and creative in spirit.

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(Continued from page 4)

Department.

On February 13, 1888, the first building regulations contained in Chapter 3 of the Milwaukee Code was passed and became a part of the General Ordinances of the city, taking effect thirty (30) days later, viz. March 13, 1888.

On March 13, 1888, the first building permit was issued by the Inspector of Buildings to the Brodesser & Ternes Machinery Co. for a machine shop costing Thirty-five Hundred ($3,500.00) Dollars to be erected at 512-514 Commerce Street (old number), 1542 North Commerce Street (new number). The building was a two story structure, 38′ by 100′ in size, of brick veneered construction. Building fees amounted to Four Dollars. The original building is still in existence and now occupied by the Milwaukee Grain & Feed Company, driers of spent brewers grain.

At the time of the appointment of the Inspector of Buildings, there was no Building Code, therefore he had no authority. The Inspector of Buildings evidently devoted his entire time between June 1, 1887 and February 13, 1888 to the drafting of proper building laws under which architects and builders could operate.

On March 30, 1888 the Inspector of Buildings, due to the increase in work, requested the Common Council to permit him to appoint an assistant. On March 11, 1889 by Common Council vote, the request was granted and Theodore F. Scheutz was named the first assistant building inspector.

Since Mr. Gurda has been building inspector he has entirely reorganized the department until today his files, both for data and plans, are in enviable shape. Information on existing buildings is available at a moment's notice and should be of greater use to the profession.

At the conclusion of his talk there was a forum which brought out many interesting discussions. The Chapter is proud that one of its members has lived up to the traditions of our profession — good service.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

LEIGH HUNT, *Secretary*

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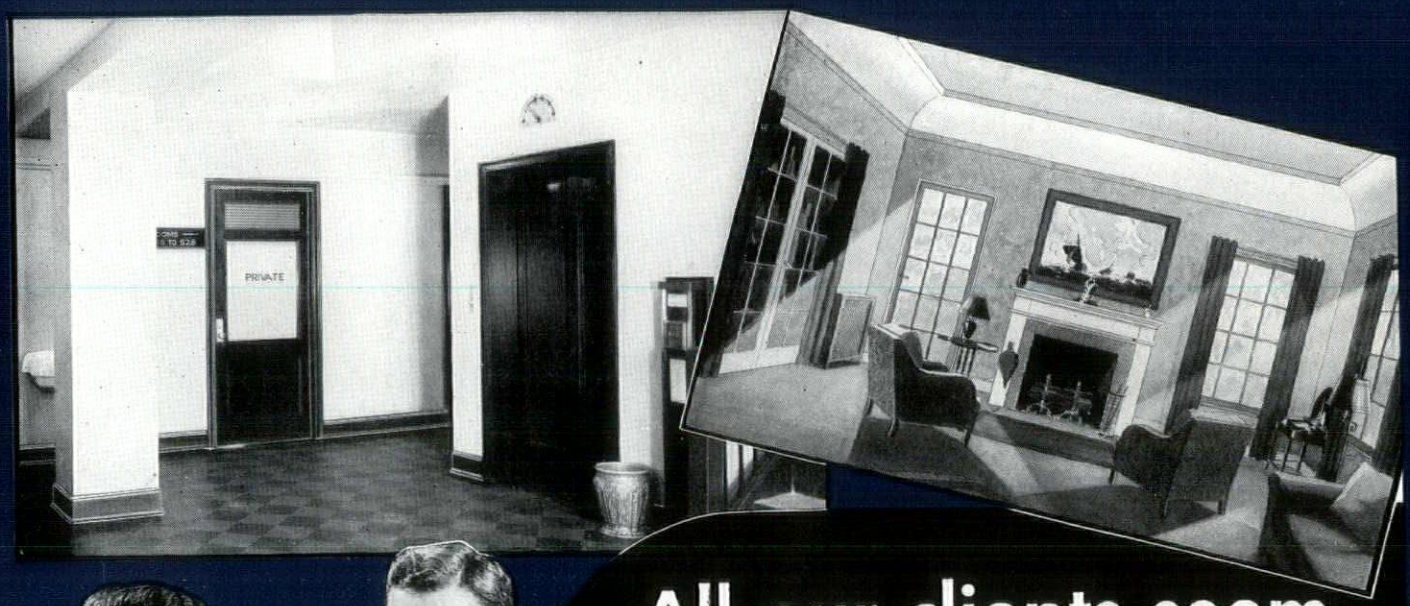


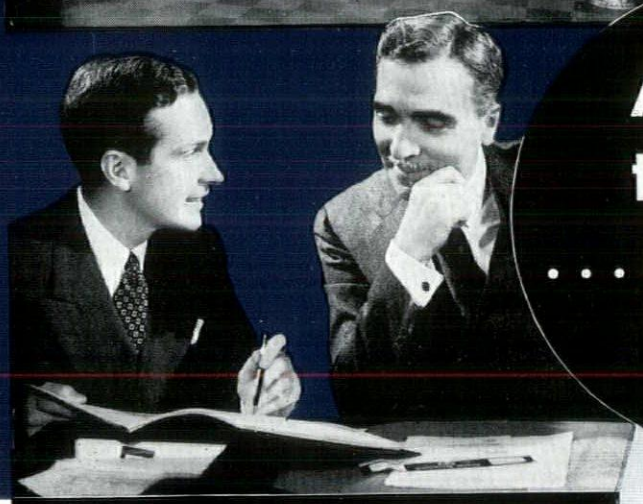

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